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February 25, 2004

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Honorable Kim Beals, Hearing Officer
c/o Sharla Dillon, Docket & Records Manager
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee, 37243-0505

**RE: Petition of Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless For Arbitration
Under the Telecommunications Act of 1996
TRA Consolidated Docket # 03-00585**

Dear Hearing Officer Beals

At the February 23, 2004, Status Conference in the above-captioned matter, TRA Hearing Officer Kim Beals inquired as to whether the parties would waive Section 252's nine-month deadline, and requested a response to this inquiry on or before Wednesday, February 25, 2004. As directed, AT&T Wireless, Cingular, Sprint, T-Mobile, and Verizon Wireless (the "CMRS Providers") submit this joint response.

As required under the Telecommunications Act of 1996, the CMRS Providers timely filed their respective petitions for arbitration before the Tennessee Regulatory Authority on November 6, 2003. According to Section 252(b)(4)(C), the nine-month deadline would expire in this matter on or about February 27, 2004. Having been requested by the Tennessee Regulatory Authority to waive the Section 252(b)(4)(C) nine-month deadline, the CMRS Providers respond in the affirmative. The CMRS Providers hereby waive said deadline, with the understanding that the agency and the parties will strive to move this matter forward in a reasonable timeframe. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the very remote possibility that the pending arbitration does not proceed to conclusion in a reasonable manner, the CMRS Providers reserve their rights pursuant to 47 U.S.C. Section 252(e)(5).

Respectfully submitted,


Melvin J. Malone

MJM/lw

cc Parties of Record

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